

THE WARCRY



THE SALVATION ARMY

AUGUST 11, 1987



Major and Mrs. Edward Dimond
At the Front Lines
of Cleveland Harbor Light
38 Years In One Appointment

38 Years at the Front Lines of Cleveland Harbor Light

Thirty-eight years ago this summer, Cadet Edward Dimond stood on the platform for his commissioning and ordination as a Salvation Army officer. He received his first appointment, and what is still his present one: Cleveland Harbor Light. His thirty-eight year tenure is believed to be the longest current one in the Salvation Army world (see letter from General Burrows, pg. 11).

This special feature salutes Major and Mrs. Edward Dimond, not only for the quantity but for the quality of their service, not only for its breadth but also for its depth, not only for its length but also for their love and the difference it has made in countless lives.

Major and Mrs. Dimond, in their combined seventy-three years at Cleveland Harbor Light, have done a work and ministry that most people could not and would not do. They minister to those who come to their doors as a place of last hope.

They love the unlovable. Their

job is helping losers become winners. The bottom line of their ministry is recorded in years of sobriety and self-respect for those who came defeated and almost destroyed by alcohol, in life's drop-outs becoming contributing members of the community, in men and women who had been estranged being reunited with loved ones, of the lonely finding fulfillment and fellowship and sinners coming to know the grace and transforming power of Jesus Christ.

Major and Mrs. Dimond through the years have served with no thought of recognition for themselves. The fact is they will be embarrassed by this coverage. Most of the photos had to be arranged through their divisional headquarters.

Their personal lifestyles are simple in devoting their resources and energies into their work for others. They always had more guests than anyone we knew on Thanksgiving and Christmas. For they spent those days each year at the center with their clients and staff, and "special guests" that consisted of the lonely and the hungry and homeless from off the streets who came to enjoy the warm fellowship and meal with all the trimmings.

Starting with a modest facility, the major acquired in 1970 the 8-story 151,000 square-foot building that hosts the six major programs of the Harbor Light Complex, including a Detox Center, two medical clinics, Retirement Lodge, community-based correctional residence and emergency housing and feeding. Many of the programs have been assisted by interorganizational partnerships. Major Dimond has himself written and negotiated contracts of service that total over eight million dollars. The

"The Lord sent us here. It's where we're meant to be." Major Edward Dimond, third generation Salvation Army officer, at his desk as executive director of the Harbor Light Center in Cleveland, OH, where he has been on the cutting edge of service.



Cleveland Divisional Headquarters and Advisory Board have given valued support over the years.

Today the Harbor Light Complex has a staff of 89 persons and an annual budget over \$2 million. The major, who was one of the first Salvation Army officers to introduce computerization into Army programs, has names on the center's computers of over 15,000 persons helped in the last four years.

Major Dimond is recognized as one of the top experts in the country on the subject of alcoholics and their treatment, with credentials from the School of Alcoholism of Yale University complementing his 38 years of working with clients. His consultation is sought by area universities and his papers have had international circulation.

But for our readers, we will let others tell the rest of the story of Major and Mrs. Dimond and the Cleveland Harbor Light Complex. First, let's hear it from the major, who sees a unique glamor in the midst of the urban pathology and problems around his doorstep.

'God makes the difference'

Major Edward V. Dimond
Executive Director

Day and night they arrive at Harbor Light by foot, bicycle, car, van, motorcycle, bus and even by plane. Young and old from near and far gather at Harbor Light like the immigrants coming to Ellis Island. They come to eat, sleep, talk



Seaman First Class Edward Dimond, having just returned from the Philippines and Japan in

1945, had a stopover at San Francisco, CA. While there as a "mixed up teenager just back after the war, another sailor shared his witness and his hotel room with my noisy dogtags, making a lasting impression on me." (That other sailor was Musician Second Class Robert Rightmire, who was waiting to be discharged and to enter the school for officers' training.)

about their troubles, and to work on their futures.

A permanent feature of Harbor Light is the constantly changing kaleidoscope of activities. A young parolee brings in his first paycheck after years of incarceration; a senior moves into our Retirement Lodge; an out of work family dines in our Soup Kitchen; an intoxicated young person is admitted to our Detox.

The complex is composed of Residential Treatment Programs in the areas of Alcoholism, Corrections, Geriatrics and Emergency Services. Residents are received from local, county, state and federal levels of the Government. Each program serves a different population and is housed on a different location. The three buildings of the complex and its mini-park are located on acre of land in downtown Cleveland situated next to the campus of Cleveland State University and between Cuyahoga Community College and Playhouse Square, the heart of the entertainment district.

Each program has its own staff and schedule and throughout the day and evening many group activities are held, along with group and individual counseling sessions. A number of local church groups and ministries support the two weekly coffee house meetings which are attended on a voluntary basis by residents and people from the neighborhood, as are the two weekly meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Intrigue abounds with lost checks, missing clothing, stolen cars and confiscated clubs, knives and guns. And there is romance: Two counselors meet, marry, and are now proud grandparents. A client, inspired by a coordinator, completes his parole, and a great inter-church wedding sends the happy couple off on a career of Christian service.

But the real glamour of Harbor Light is seeing the changes in the lives of our people. We pray that the common bond for all of us is that we have found God makes the difference, and that with His help



Mrs. Major Dimond manages the food service that feeds over 200 persons three meals daily, and is in charge of religious activities and programs for the elderly. She is believed to have the longest tenure of Salvation Army editorship in the U.S., having served for 34 years as editor of the center's excellent newsletter, The Drum Beat.



"The real glamor of Harbor Light is seeing the changes in the lives of our people. We pray that the common bond for all of us is that we have found God makes the difference, and that with His help all the rest of our days can be worthwhile."



Over 150 volunteers provide crucial support for Harbor Light's many programs.

our days can be worthwhile.

'Small world'

—Mrs. Major Dorothy J. Dimond

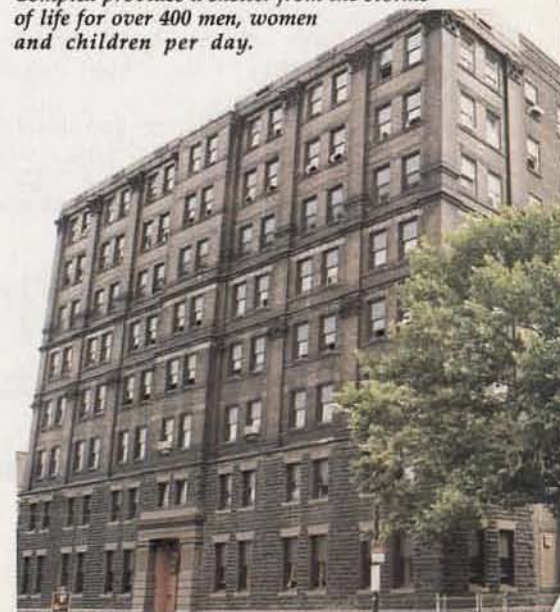
"Can I help you?," cheerfully asked the clean cut young salesman as I shopped for floor tiles. I made the selection and gave him the purchase order.

Talking quietly, he wrote up the charge. "I ate many a meal at Harbor Light last year. I was out of work for almost a year, had spent my savings and was desperate for a job . . . thanks for the food."

Then, as an afterthought, he said, "I also brought a couple of my friends to your Detox program . . .

continued on next page

Overlooking Lake Erie, the Harbor Light Complex provides a shelter from the storms of life for over 400 men, women and children per day.



**38 Years at the Front Lines
of the Cleveland Harbor
Light Center**

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they really needed it and I am happy to say they are both doing quite well since that time."

I thought, "small world." Here, many miles from Harbor Light, was a man in his thirties who had been helped by our program.

Oh, how often we wonder if we do any good at all . . . with the thousands who go through our doors every month. Thank you, young man for those words of encouragement and appreciation.

'Patience, guidance and love'

**John Leeks, Detox Center
Alcoholism counselor**

When I was down and out, whipped by the disease called Alcoholism, without a penny in my pocket or a place to go, Harbor Light took me in.

I was nursed back from the edge of the grave, and given supportive care which kept me off the street.

Harbor Light gave me a job, and with patience, guidance and love, the staff helped me become an alcoholism counselor.

God only knows where I would be if Harbor Light had not been here when I needed help.



"God Never Forgets"

**Donald Heath, Sr.
Treasurer, Harbor Light Complex**

In 1954, a young man came into Harbor Light, beat, hungry and tired. All he wanted was a bowl of soup, a clean shirt and a place to rest his aching feet.

The next morning, as he looked around at the various men in the program, he thought . . . "If others can be helped, I wonder what can be done for me?"

During his three years at Harbor Light he was reunited with his family. Before his parents passed away they were able to see their son living a clean, sober life.

It is not our purpose to make Harbor Light a permanent home, but to help people set obtainable goals. He accepted this, set his goals, and eventually he returned to the bakery trade.

I phoned to congratulate him on his 29 years of sobriety. He said, "Don, you never forget." And I thought, "Neither does God."

Note: Chaplain Heath has been a powerful witness for the Lord for over 35 years at the Harbor Light Center. His weekly Bible study is popular with the residents.

Mac the Homeless Irishman

Mac came to Harbor Light in need of emergency shelter, having worn out his welcome at all of the other shelters in the area. He had also been in most of the Cleveland area alcohol rehabilitation programs with little success. He had a very bitter attitude towards life which was intensified by his past problems with alcohol, and he was unable to find a job.

After a few weeks Mac decided that since he had given everything else a chance in his life, perhaps he should give the Lord a chance. He asked for a Bible and began reading it for himself. Soon Mac accepted the Lord as Savior and began to see things in a new light. With his change in attitude he was promoted to full-time status.

One of the most touching moments of his stay was when St. Patrick's day was approaching. Many expressed concern because of Mac's history of getting roaring drunk to celebrate. Mac did go to the parade and when he came back he said, "You know, this is the first St. Patrick's day I haven't been drunk. I saw the parade and I didn't even want a drink."

Mac is a frequent attendee at the West Park Corps where he gives his testimony to the saving and keeping power of Jesus, who has kept him sober for the past three years.

Dear Major Dimond:

October 31, 1986

Commissioner Roberts has sent through to me the record of the men's testimonies and the singing from the Cleveland Harbour Light Center.

I have already played the record and have been challenged and blessed by it. Thank you for sending this to me.

I have heard from Commissioner Roberts of the outstanding work of Mrs. Dimond and yourself at the Harbour Light Center. I think you must hold the record for the longest appointment in the world seeing you have been at Cleveland for almost forty years.

May God continue to bless your important work of love and compassion for those whose lives on the skid row are so despairing.

General

'Well-deserved tribute'

Major Edward Dimond and this writer's first personal relationship commenced at the School for Officers' Training in 1949 as both were members of the "Peacemakers" session of cadets. Mrs. Dimond was a cadet two years later. These 35 years, plus later, we still have an official relationship.

No officers have served this Territory with greater dedication, compassion and effective ministry than the Dimonds.

As personal friends, and representing all Territorial leaders under who the Dimonds have served, Mrs. Ditmer and I enthusiastically join this well-deserved War Cry tribute. May their kind be increased.

Commissioner and Mrs. Stanley E. Ditmer
Territorial Commander

Duo has helped hopeless at Harbor Light 37 years

by William F. Miller, staff writer

Excerpted from *The Plain Dealer*

Each day and night, alcoholics stagger through the door or are carried in.

The poor line up daily in the noon soup line.

Homeless couples with children and men and women without futures go there for shelter.

To all of them, their beacon of hope is the Salvation Army's Harbor Light Complex, managed by Edward V. Dimond, and his wife Dorothy.

The Dimonds, both majors in The Salvation Army, welcome all who stop at the eight-story, fortress-like building at 1710 Prospect Ave. The two have devoted 38 years here to helping the homeless, the hungry, alcoholics and others in need.

They do their difficult work day after day with a quiet dignity and sense of humor. Together they fight the drinking problems that plague hundreds of men and women who come there yearly.

There are few victories and many defeats, but the two never give up trying to make a difference.

'Thousands of lives turned around'

We express great pride and admiration for the wonderful work being done by Major and Mrs. Edward Dimond at the Harbor Light Complex in Cleveland. Thousands of lives have been turned around because of their dedicated ministry.

There are many stories that could be told about their compassion and involvement in the problems and the happy endings in the lives of residents at the center. Cleveland is better because of their presence in our community.

God has used this ministry and these two very special people in a marvelous way. We salute them and say "Thank God for their lives!"

Major & Mrs. Ernest V. Payton,
Divisional Commander,
Northeast Ohio Division

For further information on this program, write to Harbor Light Complex, 1710 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2376



Holding the historic Harbor Light record referred to by General Burrows in her letter are Major and Mrs. Dimond, Lieutenant Lawrence Shaffer (then assistant at the cen- ter), and Commissioner Bramwell Tripp (R) (then territorial commander) circa 1972. Mrs. Major Dimond has been organist and Major Dimond saxophonist for the combo.

Joy, they say, is when an alcoholic breaks the habit and becomes a useful citizen. Many of their clients, unfortunately, return to drinking.

"We get those persons who have been rejected by society and have nowhere else to go," said Dimond.

There is no question in the Dimonds' minds why they spend their lives helping some of those with the toughest social problems in Cleveland.

"The Lord sent us here," said Dimond. "Here is where we're meant to be."

Harbor Light in Official SA History Book

General Frederick Coumts, the Army's foremost historian, in Volume VII of the official international history of The Salvation Army, devotes almost two pages to the Cleveland Harbor Light program, as a model of post World War II social services. (text from book pgs. 116-117)

No single illustration fills this time slot adequately but a page from the history of the giant Harbor Light complex at Cleveland, OH, is as helpful as any. As a captain the youthful Edward Dimond was already tirelessly experimenting to discover the most effective program for the rehabilitation of the alcoholic . . . The traditional Salvation Army brass band had been repeatedly tried but had repeatedly failed. So sights were adjusted to use such players as were available on the instruments which they themselves favored. A harmonica trio provided a modest beginning—

with percussion, string and reed being added as time went on. Music lessons were provided for learners through the kindness of the staff of a local music school. The Salvationist composer, Emil Söderström, gladly lent his skills and contributed a number of his own arrangements to the harbor light music library.

In the sixties this center gained 48 soldiers—and yet their case histories included the story of John who was first admitted to the center in 1961, was readmitted on nine subsequent occasions but was discharged for drinking on a further nine occasions and, when his file was about to be closed, was again on another extended drinking bout. His average stay in the center was two months; his longest four and-a-half months. While in care he bore a good witness and was able to be of help to some of the other men. The truth to which his story testifies is that at no point, drunk or sober, should any man be finally written off.

38 Years at the Front of Cleveland Harbor



Center employee Pat Brown shares the peacefulness of Harbor Light's mini-park with Mac the Irishman. The mini-park is an oasis in the middle of the noise and activity of downtown Cleveland.



The International Staff Songsters were treated to an American Thanksgiving dinner following a performance at Harbor Light Center.



Volunteers serve close to 1,000 meals each day.



Seniors discover a sense of community through the center's Retirement Lodge, geriatric services, religious programs and activities under the direction of Mrs. Major Dimond.

Mealtimes are also a time for fellowship at Harbor Light. Over 200 meals are served three times each day.

38 Years at the Front Lines of Cleveland Harbor Light Center



The International Staff Songsters were treated to their first traditional American Thanksgiving dinner following a concert on this holiday at the Harbor Light Center.



Volunteers serve close to 1,000 meals over the holidays.



Seniors discover a sense of community through the center's Retirement Lodge, geriatric services, religious programs and activities under the direction of Mrs. Major Dimond.



On warm days the mini-park is a cool retreat for cookouts and family visiting.

photos courtesy of Bernadette Walsh,
public relations department,
Cleveland, OH DHQ

Front Lines for Light Center



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...ing a concert on this holiday at the*



...meals over the holidays.



*On warm days the mini-park is a cool
retreat for cookouts and family visiting.*

photos courtesy of Bernadette Walsh,
public relations department,
Cleveland, OH DMC



Mrs. Major Dimond counsels one of the more than 3,000 persons the center helps each year. Harbor Light takes in those who are broken in spirit and rejected by society. The center's program helps them overcome their problems, and to discover and realize their God-given potential.



*Medical treatment is one important part
of the kaleidoscope of activities at
Harbor Light. The center is equipped
with two medical clinics.*



*At the Front Lines of
Cleveland Harbor Light*

Ministering to the
Hunger of the Soul



Major Dimond teaches the Word during chapel in the Center's Mini Park.



A moment of sacred decision is sealed in prayer at the altar.

Mrs. Dimond conducts one of her popular "Chalk Talk" drawings in chapel service.



Don "Mac the Irishman" MacLennan and friend relax and reflect in Harbor Light's oasis in Cleveland's center city.



Major Dimond, a former cyclist, joins Jim Grumy in counseling neophyte biker Tom Collier on bike safety.